Doe Hawas

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on May 15, 2001.

Syla Burleigh

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

BANAS et al.

Serial No .:

08/999,583

Filing Date:

December 22, 1997

For:

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HELICALLY SUPPORTED GRAFT

Examiner: Paul Prebelic

Group Art Unit: 3738

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This preliminary amendment is filed concurrently with a divisional application from the parent application listed above. Applicants respectfully request that the claim amendments be entered prior to calculation of fees.

In the Title

Please change the title to read as follows:

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-- EXTERNALLY SUPPORTED GRAFT--

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph: